

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 72

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Ammiano, Block, Butler, Campos, Carter, Davis, Eng, Hall, Roger Hernández, Hueso, Huffman, Lara, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mendoza, Pan, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Solorio, Williams, ~~and Yamada~~ *Yamada, Achadjian, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hill, Huber, Jeffries, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Norby, Olsen, Silva, Skinner, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, and Wieckowski*)

(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Kehoe, Pavley, Rubio, Wright, and Yee)

June 29, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to Native American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 72, as amended, Alejo. Native American Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize the month of November 2011 as Native American Heritage Month, would encourage Californians to participate in appropriate observances that celebrate and commemorate Native

Americans, and would applaud and encourage the observance of California Indian nations for their outstanding contributions to this state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage and the Native
2 American community contribute immeasurably to our state's
3 history, and continue to enrich the diversity of our culture by
4 distinguishing themselves as academics, entrepreneurs, and leaders
5 in all aspects of our society; and

6 WHEREAS, Prior to the European colonization of the Americas,
7 the indigenous people of California thrived with a vibrant culture
8 and society; and

9 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage predates our
10 19th-century statehood, and the experiences of California Native
11 Americans have been marked by moments of triumph and hardship;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have withstood the
14 pressures to lose their rich cultural knowledge of languages, beliefs,
15 and traditions that have been passed on from generation to
16 generation; and

17 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage is richly
18 interwoven with California's diverse cultural and social fabric;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Through their rich cultural traditions and proud
21 ancestry, California Native Americans have made vital
22 contributions to the strength and diversity of our society in such
23 areas as law, medicine, business, education, and the United States
24 Armed Forces; and

25 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have proudly served
26 in the United States Armed Forces for over 200 years, defending
27 the security of our state and nation with their lives, including
28 engaging in World War II and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with
29 honor, determination, and distinction; and

30 WHEREAS, The work of Native American leaders has sought
31 to bridge racial, socioeconomic, and environmental barriers by
32 empowering and educating people in order to protect Native
33 American culture and heritage for future generations; and

34 WHEREAS, The California Native American heritage
35 experience has been studied and taught by academic scholars
36 throughout the state, and its relevance and importance is

1 exemplified by the creation of Native American studies
2 departments in our state's university system; and

3 WHEREAS, The Native American studies program exists to
4 broaden the understanding of students interested in the history,
5 culture, literature, and contemporary issues of California Native
6 American heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, Baccalaureate degrees in Native American studies
8 are now offered at six University of California campuses and 10
9 California State University campuses; and

10 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have faced numerous
11 barriers to business development, but have overcome those barriers
12 to persevere and contribute to Native American communities
13 throughout the state and country, and exemplify Native American
14 entrepreneurship in such areas as economic development, the food
15 service industry, health care, and banking finance; and

16 WHEREAS, As we celebrate the contributions of California
17 Native American heritage, let it not be lost on us the tremendous
18 sacrifice, self-determination, and great continued inspiration to
19 our state of California Native Americans; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
22 November 2011, as Native American Heritage Month, and
23 encourages all Californians to participate in appropriate
24 observances with activities that celebrate and commemorate Native
25 Americans as a symbol of hope and courage to all citizens; and be
26 it further

27 *Resolved*, That this recognition applauds and encourages the
28 observance of California Indian nations for their outstanding
29 contributions to this great state; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.